

I got a text last night from my second oldest son who said he woke up from a dream where he had been reading my book:

## **When Children Walked the Earth**

I asked him what I wrote. He said he didn't know he never remembered much about dreams.

I woke up this morning and saw the book all at once. I do that sometimes and it's the most irritating thing because I know that by the time I get some sort of outline begun I'll fixate on a detail and its gone. But I thought I would share the glimpse I saw and see if I can't fill it out in the coming weeks.

Children need authoritarian supervision. This is one of the most obvious facts of life. Which could be the reason why men, wherever and whenever they have organized throughout history, they have gravitated to the analogy of the family to explain their authority, and the necessity for those they govern to submit to their . . . their father.

The Citizen-Child because they have no basis for self-control, and no way to protect themselves, therefore no basis to fulfill their purpose by their own self-governed effort without hurting or exploiting others or being hurt and exploited by others.

Their hearts are stone, impervious to having any law written on them. Therefore, elite leaders must control, manage and regulate them for their own good.

History has been the story of this theory of authoritarian supervision of elite leaders over people who, like children, cannot resist taking advantage of others, nor can they provide for or protect themselves.

The only rational conclusion is that Civilization is the story of Children walking the earth guided civilly and religiously by Father-leaders.

What this analogy lacks is the most obvious purpose of fatherhood: raising the child to full independent adult maturity in wisdom, knowledge and self-control. The Fatherland, whether our Father-governors or our Fathers in the faith never produce adult citizens who do not need to be under their control . . . "for their own good."

The most obvious fact of parenting is that the adult no longer needs a parent's disciplinary force to keep him True. This obvious goal of mentoring children to adulthood is conveniently dropped from the analogy of father-governor in the civil order, and the father-priests and father-elders in the religious order.

Authoritarian leadership as the world has known it, is always winter never Christmas. Being led by such Father-leaders is always about authoritative power-parents and all the good they do with power, using it to nurture perpetual childhood. It's never about children growing out of wonderful imaginations into a world where they don't need controllers to make the thoughts of their hearts real. Adults can provide for and protect themselves Spiritually and Materially.

Throughout the ages men have imagined a perfect world where this sort of self-governing freedom would be possible. A place where each person find's his place and fulfills it — every man has his own vine and fig tree as the Hebrew Scriptures put it. There is a universal sense that no place like this has ever been found, and if found no people we know would be sufficiently self-governed to live peacefully in it. Still it is a longing that does not go away.

Christians know that wherever they go on the planet, they find people looking for this place; however deep inside they have bottled the vision; or in whatever myths and fairy tales they tell about it; or in whatever religious garb the cloak it; or in whatever hole they bury the hope and deny it so as not to be crushed by disappointment.

The Bible says that this irrepressible design feature of each human being, male and female alike comes from the fact that they are created purposeful beings, like their creator, and designed like their Creator to live free according to the law of productive, multiplicative goodness overflowing from the center of their being. This law is not beaten into them from some outside authority whether it's their father-governors, their father-priests or their father-husbands.

You were created and designed in the Garden of God. You are made in God's Image. Whether you are male or female He made You fully His Image bearer. Neither male nor female to take dominion over the other or anyone else, both commissioned to take dominion over the world making it an inexhaustible fruitful, wonderful place.

So what happened? When did men decide they were in charge of women? In charge of each other? Able to set policy and use their police to force it on others? Where did the idea come from that the only government that is realistic is an authoritarian government where the Father of the children controls them for their own good? If all this is found in the Bible, then Christianity is as much the problem as any other pagan idea of how things should work. Or . . . maybe we are doomed. Not even Jesus Christ offers a way out of this trap. He is just one more authoritarian among others. Sure, he may talk about Freedom, but all he offers is men who do the same authoritarian thing as the autocrats, they just do it in Jesus name, and command you to believe that you submit to their declarations and admit you are free.

You must be free, it's God's law of freedom they impose on you.

You must be Free you have faith in Jesus who makes you free.

You must be free because your heart is free and in the next life you will be free.

You must be free because they can't take Jesus away from you.

No matter how they put it, whether in the name of the state, or the name of Jesus, or the name of Allah or the name of eastern Meditative Oneness, you will forever be a Child walking the earth with no hope of growing up, unless you become one of the ruling elite yourself, a Father, then you can be the adult and rule over the children.

This is not what the Bible Teaches, though it is what men have taught thinking they could prove it from the Bible.

Jesus makes the claim, "If you rest in me, and my word rests in you, you will know the truth and the truth will make you free." . . . "Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

These words are hopelessly Utopian. Now don't get offended. What I mean is no one believes that they will be realized in space time history. That hearts will be sufficiently transformed and people become capable of independent self-government under God's law without need of a regulatory authoritarian Church or state. Even post-millennialists who believe something like this do not believe we will ever shed a need for an authoritarian top down government.

But we like the way the words make us feel, especially those who believe they are God's words, so they must be somehow true. So we try to give them a way to make sense without really believing that the Utopia they proclaim is an historical possibility.

God makes us free inside but with no effect on the world other than hopeful optimism, not changed history — For instance have you heard someone say, "As long as my heart is free it doesn't matter what is going on in the world no one can take my hope away."

Free by definition #1 — No matter what it seems like I am free because I say I am free, or because Jesus says I am free!

Free by definition #2 — By getting government to impose God's law on everyone I am free because God's law makes us free.

Free by discipline, if I follow the right disciplinary guides, perhaps fasting, reading scripture, meditating, prayer, chastity, diet, worship, I can experience the freedom of union with God.

All of these are ways Christians affirm the fact that in the real world, only Authoritarian government can provide the necessary control spiritually and materially to protect and provide for us as a society.

Jesus Christ, Moses and the Prophets Challenge this a-historical twisting of their words. They will introduce you to what the Bible actually says about authority and authoritarian solutions to the world's problems in general and to our individual problems in particular.

It is God's design from the beginning to make this world one of free, sustainable self-directed fruitfulness. History is the unfolding of that plan. Your life and purpose are tied up in the steps he created for you to take in that plan. This is the Grand Purpose of your life.

The first mention of this Authoritarian winter comes not in the Garden, but on the day the Garden of God is closed and God provided a way for human society to continue in spite of the promised death. This is the day when God tells the woman that the man is in charge, and she is going to love him anyway and feel the pain of that union in the pain of child birth and in the loss of her standing as a self-directing ruler in history.

The story says that breaking that fellowship with God broke the fundamental design components of humanity, the source code, that made the consistent self-direction of life possible. To correctly function they had to:

- 1) To know the difference between Good and Evil;
- 2) To apply it in their judgment of what needs doing; and
- 3) the self-discipline to do the Good their judgment says to do.

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is the most enduring concrete story in human experience. Once anyone hears it they never forget it. So concrete is it that no human experience has been able to grow beyond it. That God planted a tree and named it the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and designed the first moral lesson around it is not a just a metaphor. It is one of the inescapable realities of each human existence as it grows from infancy to mature ethical-judicial adulthood. Failure to mature in knowledge of right and wrong and judgment to do it, dooms you to be at war with God, with the rest of humanity and with yourself. Its end is inevitable lawless chaotic anarchy, extinction.

This moment in Human history embodies the foundation of human ethics: Will you trust God? "Hath God said?" asked the Serpent. Did not mean, "lets find out and do what he said," but, "Lets see if God is the final authority." This is the beginning of ethics and we destroyed our ability to be ethically adult because we destroyed our ability to have fellowship with our Father who is God.

Which is the result of that first failure which made Authoritarian government necessary for survival itself. But like taking the trainers off of the bike, the time comes when the maturity of the rider and the unnecessary impediment of the external restraints results in the rider overcoming his fear of trusting the Holy Spirit and the gifts God gave him and the word of God.

The very definition of maturity is that point at which a child understands what is right and wrong, and learns the judgment to apply what they know and finally demonstrates the self-discipline to actually do it. Until then, for the child's protection and the protection of others, Adults impose a rigid set of rules and laws from the outside and physically enforce them. In so doing they provide the analogy for all government. But for government, it is an analogy that has no coming to maturity in ethical judicial knowledge of Good and Evil, only a perpetual childhood that at first the security may seem wonderful, even in the home, but in end it becomes a never ending winter, survivable but miserable.

The child-citizen. The child-church member. The child-wife — these can never grow up because by definition a spiritually and morally mature citizen, a morally mature church member, or a morally mature wife is ungovernable by traditional authoritarian structures which are designed to live life for the child, to feed, cloth, house and protect the child. Authoritarian government is not designed for fellow adults to live mature self-governing lives, but humanity is designed for precisely this, its just as a culture we cannot achieve it.

But achievable or not, the two masters cannot both be served. You are either a child and need a strong governing hand, or you are an adult and you control your own life.

For you modernists who embrace authoritarian government at every level, not because you like it, but because the pain of centrally planned winter is eased by big government hand outs, and because the alternative is chaos or worse. And you who take the Bible seriously who have given up on the idea that God has a plan for the nation's governments in history and find your pain eased by priests who stand at the spigots of grace asking you to kneel to them so they can share an eastern inner-Christ with you.<sup>1</sup> Each in their own way point to the fact that through everything from Genesis 2 to Malachi (that's everything before Jesus) the Bible seems to assume that maturity cannot go beyond hearts of stone and therefore you find the Bible turning even God's own people to a strong governing hand. Self-Governed Freedom is not possible to the Old Covenant heart.

All forms of the Pre-Christ forms of government reflect the authoritarian pattern of marriage, "He shall rule over her and her desire shall be for him." It's the result of hearts of stone, incapable of free self-

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<sup>1</sup> I know, I know, if you are reformed, protestant, evangelical, Charismatic, you don't think you kneel to any priest. You are like the prolifer at a protest who was standing next to me while I was holding Baby Choice, a late term saline aborted child. As I was arrested I handed him the child. After 3 hours caring for her, he was a broken man. He would never be prolife again. What was theory became concrete fact. He committed the rest of his life to abolition, ending the murder not just positively supporting life. As soon as you see the functional powers of an elder and the functional powers of a priest compared, you can never again see elders as anything but modified priests no matter how tightly you close your eyes.

government. It is the curse of rejecting Biblical ethics in a relationship to the living God.

There were dreamers, though. Moses, Samuel, Jeremiah, Ezekiel. They envisioned a people governed from the heart by God's Law and Spirit. They envisioned people governed by their actual designed likeness to God (what today we would call "Source Code") and by God dwelling in them.

But how this was going to happen? How do we grow up when maturity requires real hearts of flesh and blood, not hearts of stone?

So it has always been the consensus that Civilization such as it is, is doomed always to be Children walking the earth, led by a few good Father-men. In today's enlightened world we add a few token women, or we let them be the superior matriarchs who can rule us from the top down better than men. But whether you are a feminist, a patriarchalist, or a complementarian, you cling to that model of hopeless futureless childhood requirement that someone is in charge, someone sets and enforces policy.

Is it really Utopian to believe that God's Grace could ever transform enough hearts in a civilization so that we can experience the freedom self-government brings when the full image God gave to us is unleashed in harmony with its source code, His law?

Always winter. Always needing caretakers because our pastors and theologians assure us that even hearts of flesh indwelt by God cannot bring forth mature human beings able to rule their own lives.

Did Christmas Happen or not?

Did God come in the flesh? And if He did, wasn't it to enable leaders to become true parents of free independent adult children, not heads of group-homes for the marginally functional?

Did God die to transform our stone hearts to flesh and then, did God write his source code on these living hearts like Ezekiel, and Jeremiah said He would when he comes? The way Moses prayed to God that he would? "Would that all God's people were prophets! Would that He put His Spirit on all of them." he prayed.

And is the purpose of this transformation so that God could live in us the way Moses and Jeremiah spoke of?

If so then why are we running to the stony heartless shadows to find central authorities to give our lives meaning and purpose as if Jesus the True Adult Man, never walked the earth?

The law was never intended to be primarily an external motivator applied by force by the parent-governor, parent-pastor, or or parent-husband. The law was always meant to be what the living God

dwelling in you used to direct your designed purpose — that internal transformer that would make you free, self-controlled self-governed to protect yourself, provide for yourself and do these things for the weak among you until they could mature to self-protecting self-providing adults themselves.

This is not Utopia, it is what the Christian religion is all about. Or it is a hoax, a deadening drug like Opium, just like Marx said it was.

The reason you have never seen it put this way or done this way is because the leaders and followers alike in the Church simply do not believe that what Jesus commands is possible, because they do not believe that their own story is true in the historical sense, only in a rhetorical “cracking good story” sense. They do not believe that when Jesus says, “Do not rule like the gentiles who seek out the greatest, rule instead like the Son of Man who is a servant” he is giving more than pious utopian ideals. They believe we will always need authoritarian governments.

This act of God transforming His people doesn’t eliminate external governments it makes them possible to govern without coercive force. Like parents of adults, leaders can lead large extended families without punishing their adult children as if they were the controlling disciplinary force in their children’s lives and families.

Isn’t this what you want with your parents when you grow up, and your children when they grow up? To be a parent who is first among adults. Who is first in the sense of more wisdom, knowledge, experience, connections, contacts but not first in the way you used to know them for the first 20 years of your life. Not first as the strong man forcing you to live by a code that was originally not yours from the heart because your heart was stone, impervious to being governed by God’s law written on it. But after 20 years your heart has been transformed by the word of God, the power of the Holy Spirit and the discipleship of your parents and elders in the Church.

This is Jesus’ model of leadership. Jesus did not call leaders to ride herd on Children as they walk the earth. Jesus did not call followers to be children needing a firm hand at the scruff of their neck. Rather, Jesus called his leaders to lead Spiritual adults into fruitful multiplication of all good things, filling the earth and caring for it.

Leadership through wise service, not doing things for, or to, the follower, but instead enabling the one led to do things with the you, the leader, things that go beyond what you could do if you’re only power was the power to set policy and enforce it.

In Jesus’ vision of leadership and government, service based on Truth, is what validates authority, even if He, Jesus himself, appoints someone to be in authority. The life of Peter proves this. Service based on Truth, enables us to lead other adults the way He did or follow other adults the way he did. It’s not the appointment, or status, or gender, or



knowledge that makes you a leader. It's obedient service that exemplifies one who knows what is right, speaks it in sound judgment and leads in doing it. Such a person discipled nations.

So you want to get all theological about it?

**It's the Incarnation** — The Law-word that God wrote on a stone tablet becomes flesh and dwells among us. The living Word, He was the first human to demonstrate self-government that wasn't chaotic anarchy of the self-willed individual struggling against stifling authoritarians. He demonstrated self-government by God's law flowing from his heart directing every step of his life.

**His atoning Cross** — defines his service to us by taking on himself everything about you that is wrong and so deserving of failure and that punishment failure becomes and gives you everything He does right. He makes you to be like He is. He recreates you into what you've known all along was real. The bottom line is, He makes your serving others possible. In the Cross he transforms hearts from stone to flesh so we could have God's Source Code of liberty written on them. These hearts are the stones he said would cry out in praise and prayer to Him when the religious leaders of his day or any day refused to.

**His Ascension** — He reigns from the right hand of God directing the events of History to his Glorious conclusion, not an emergency bailout then blowing up the earth.

**Pentecost** — That was the day God shattered history in an act as remarkable as His becoming fully human. He takes up residence in His people, without absorbing their personal identity into His. He's not Buddha. He's not some impersonal enlightened state brought about by disciplined meditation or good deeds. He is a person who writes His law on your now truly human heart so that you can become an adult in His world. All of you adults! Adults who transform earth into a truly imaginative and yet purposeful wonderful place. A world that is going somewhere, not static, not winding down and wearing away frail, frayed, old and flammable.

God's law, written on your heart, is His plan for turning the imagination of Civilization the hope into reality without Anarchy.

It doesn't eliminate other forms of governing it makes true government possible, in the Home in the Church and in the Civil Order. God's law written on the heart of his people is the Bible's presupposition of the very possibility of society itself.

No longer will Children Walk the Earth.

What follows, is the reality of the changes made that will be made for adults to walk the earth. How do we get from childhood to adult hood and what does family Church and State look like when it is governed and populated by ethical-judicial mature adults?